

Code of Ethics

A Guide of Conduct for School Board Members of the City of Virginia Beach

This Code of Ethics signifies the strong commitment on the part of the School Board to base our decisions and actions on ethical standards. It recognizes the role and defines professional behavior needed in order to fulfill our obligations of being effective and responsible Board Members. This Code reflects the deeper sense of purpose and direction which governs our work. Our ethical behavior "speaks" loudly as an example to the young people we serve. It is, in fact, one of the wisest lessons in teaching and learning we can offer.

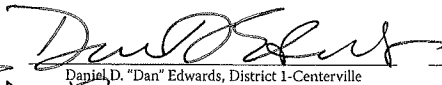
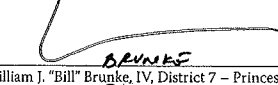

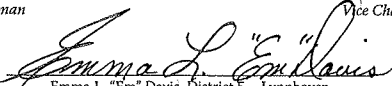
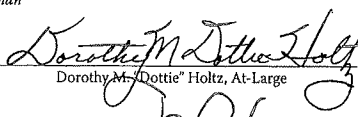

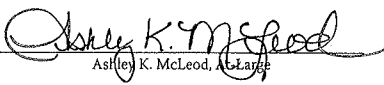

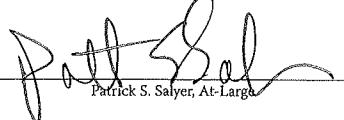

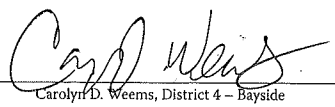
While serving as a member of the Virginia Beach School Board, I will accept the responsibility to improve education, and I will:

1. Remember that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of all students attending Virginia Beach public schools;
2. Obey the laws of Virginia and the United States;
3. Respect the confidentiality of privileged information;
4. Recognize that as an individual Board Member I have no authority to speak or act for the Board;
5. Respect the right of other Board Members to have and express ideas that differ;
6. Work collaboratively with other Members to establish effective Board policies;
7. Delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent and staff;
8. Encourage ongoing communications among Board Members, students, staff, and the community;
9. Be open, fair and honest;
10. Render all of my decisions based on available facts, appropriate public input and my independent judgment;
11. Make every effort to attend all Board meetings;
12. Come to Board meetings informed concerning the issues under consideration;
13. Give staff members the respect and consideration due skilled professional employees;
14. Improve my ability to serve as a School Board Member by studying educational issues and participating in appropriate professional development;
15. Support the employment of staff members based on qualifications;
16. Cooperate with other Board Members and Administrators to establish a system of regular and impartial evaluations of all staff;
17. Avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof;
18. Refrain from using my Board position for benefit of myself, family, or other business associates;
19. Express my personal opinions, but once the Board has acted, accept the will of the majority; and
20. Maintain professional decorum when discussing school matters.

I acknowledge that the following are unethical behaviors and will refrain from such actions:

1. Seek personal advantage from membership on the Virginia Beach School Board;
2. Make disparaging remarks about other Board Members;
3. Discuss confidential business in public or to anyone not privy to such information;
4. Place the interests of individuals or groups ahead of the interests of the district and all students in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and
5. Conduct unauthorized activity on the Board's behalf away from the School Board meetings.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 15th day of March 2011

 Daniel D. "Dan" Edwards, District 1-Centerville Chairman	 William J. "Bill" Brunke, IV, District 7 – Princess Anne Vice Chairman	
 Todd C. Davidson, At-Large	 Emma L. "Em" Davis, District 5 – Lynnhaven	 Dorothy M. "Dottie" Holtz, At-Large
 Brent N. McKenzie, District 3 – Rose Hall	 Ashley K. McLeod, At-Large	 Samuel G. "Sam" Reid, District 6 – Beach
 Patrick S. Salyer, At-Large	 Sandra Smith-Jones, District 2 – Kempsville	 Carolyn D. Weems, District 4 – Bayside